ROSEWOOD

The house now called Rosewood was built on the site of Pepperknowes Cottages, a row of three old cottages associated with the nearby Pepperknowes Farm.

Spelling was much more wobbly in the past than it is now, and the cottages and farm were also called Pepperknows, Peper Know's and Pepper Knows in the nineteenth century. The Scottish word know, or knowe, rhymes with now, not no, and is the Scottish form of the Old English word knoll, meaning a small hill. Peper is the Scots spelling of paper.

The cottages were situated where the lounge and dining room now stand, with front doors towards the kitchen. The present drive was built as part of the redevelopment; previously the cottages were reached by way of the lane that runs past the back garden from Pepperknowes Farm in the east to the disused Pepperknowes Quarry in the west.

The cottages appear on the first Ordnance Survey map of the area in about 1860, and may have been much older. The occupants in the nineteenth century were often ploughmen and other farmworkers. The farm itself dates from much earlier. It is described as a farm and mill in a rental of 1649, and was well established in 1797, when it had 13 horses. The area appears on a c1590 map as Peppirhill. The farm suffered a fire a few years ago and now has planning permission to be converted to private dwellings.

Pepperknowes, or Glencarse, Quarry was one of many stone quarries in the area, and may have been the source of the stones from which the original cottages were built. It now hosts a great variety of wild plants; a recent survey identified 75 different species, including two types of wild orchid.